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PATENT
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Case No. 00-713-i22)

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In re Application of:)
Chad A. Mirkin, et al.)
Serial No.: 09/981,344)
Filed: October 15, 2001)
For: NANOPARTICLES HAVING)
OLIGONUCLEOTIDES ATTACHED)
THERETO AND USES THEREFOR)

Examiner: J. Riley

Art Unit: 1637

Confirmation No.: 6529

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as shown below.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 433-444 as shown below. A clean copy of the pending claims, after amendment, is attached as Appendix A.

-- 433. The method according to any one of claims 1 or 2, wherein the oligonucleotides are attached to the nanoparticles in a stepwise ageing process comprising (i) contacting the oligonucleotides with the nanoparticles in a first aqueous solution for a period of time sufficient to allow some of the oligonucleotides to bind to the nanoparticles; (ii) adding at least one salt to the aqueous solution to create a second aqueous solution; and (iii) contacting the oligonucleotides and nanoparticles in the second aqueous solution for an additional period of time to enable additional oligonucleotides to bind to the nanoparticles.